

Message Text

SECRET

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63

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 NEA-07 PM-03 INR-05

CIAE-00 SP-02 MMO-01 OC-01 CCO-00 OPR-01 PRS-01 SAM-01

/050 W

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R 041849Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6187

INFO SECDEF

S E C R E T LONDON 16890

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN LEBANON

1. FOR PAST TWO WEEKS WE HAVE EXCHANGED INFO AND POLICY STATEMENTS ON LEBANON ON DAILY BASIS WITH FCO, USUALLY AT LEBANON DESK OFFICER LEVEL, INCLUDING E & E ASPECT. FCO STATES UK EMBASSY "THINNING-DOWN" PROCESS PROCEEDING MORE SLOWLY THAN OURS.

2. IN THIS CMNNECTION WE NOTED ANNOUNCEMENT BY MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OCTOBER 31 THAT "ASSAULT VESSEL" INTREPID WILL REMAIN IN MEDITERRANEAN INSTEAD OF RETURNING TO BRITAIN THIS WEEK AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED. FCO DESK OFFICER (PROTECT SOURCE) AOMMENTED PRIVATELY THAT PUBLICITY GIVEN TO MOVE HAD BEEN "MOST EMBARRASSING." MOD HAD OFFERED ITO KEEP INTREPID IN MEDITERRANEAN FOR POSSIBLE E & E MOVES, AND FCO HAD ACCEPTED OFFER. THEREUPON MOD FELT ANNOUNCEMENT WAS NEEDED SINCE FAMILY OF CREW EXPECTING IT HOME SOONER. UNFORTUNATELY MOD ANNOUNCEMENT WENT FURTHER THAN FCO WOULD HAVE WISHED, AND PRESS INCREASED ATTENTION TO

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MOVE BY ERRONEOUSLY REPORTING INTREPID WOULD "STAND BY IN

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN." ACCORDING TO FCO, INTREPID IS
PRESENTLY SCHEDULED TO UNDERGO MINOR REFITTING IN MALTA
RATHER THAN BRITAIN.

RICHARDSON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 04 NOV 1975
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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